

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/602,636

**Applicant(s)**

CHUNG ET AL.

**Examiner**

THIERRY L. PHAM

**Art Unit**

2625

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated 6/26/2008 and authorized examiner's amendment dated 10/10/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-29; renumbered as claims 1-28 (respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 10/10/08.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

- This action is responsive to the following communication: amendment filed on 6/26/2008 and authorized examiner's amendment dated 10/10/2008.
- Claims 1, 3-29 are now allowed; claim 2 has been canceled; claim 29 has been amended by examiner's amendment (see below for details).

#### ***Response to Arguments***

- Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-9, filed 6/26/08, with respect to claim 1 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejection of claims 1, 3-29 under U.S.C. 103(a) has been withdrawn.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

- Claims 1, 3-29 are allowable over prior art of record; renumbered as claims 1-28 (respectively).
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts (US 2002/0159805 to Sato; US 5580041 to Nakayama) of record teach an image forming apparatus having guide members that guide printed media in and out of the image forming apparatus, but fails to teach and/or suggest *"a plurality of flexible guide members arranged widthwise of the paper, each flexible guide member having a first guide side, and each flexible guide member flexing in a first direction to guide the recording medium toward the exit path member and balance with itself with the force applied by the recording medium when the recording medium exits the printing unit and contacts the first guide side and returning to an original position by flexing in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the paper completely passes through the printing unit; and a reverse path which branches out of the exit path between the exit of the printing unit and the exit member, so that the direction of the movement of the paper, which moves backward along the exit path, is reversed and again supplied into the printing unit when the exit member rotates in a reverse direction, wherein each guide member further comprises a second guide side which guides the paper, which goes backward along the exit path,*

*along the reverse path*” and in combinations with other features as cited in independent claims 1 & 29 (renumbered as claims 1 & 28 respectively).

### EXAMINER’S AMENDMENT

An examiner’s amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner’s amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Daebeler on 10/10/2008.

**Please amend the following claim:**

29. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a printing unit to print an image on a recording medium and forward the recording medium through the image forming apparatus;  
an exit path member to rotate in a forward direction to push the recording medium out of the image forming apparatus; ~~and~~  
a plurality of flexible guide member members arranged widthwise of the paper, each flexible guide member having a first guide side, the and each flexible guide member flexing in a first direction to guide the recording medium toward the exit path member and balance with itself with the force applied by the recording medium when the recording medium exits the printing unit and contacts the first guide side and returning to an original position by flexing in a second direction opposite to the first direction after the paper completely passes through the printing unit [f.]); and  
a reverse path which branches out of the exit path between the exit of the printing unit and the exit member, so that the direction of the movement of the paper, which moves backward along the exit path, is reversed and again supplied into the printing unit when the exit member rotates in a reverse direction, wherein each guide member further comprises a second guide side which guides the paper, which goes backward along the exit path, along the reverse path.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THIERRY L. PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thierry L Pham/  
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/Dov Popovici/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625